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In the Name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful

SELECTED SHORT AXIOMS OF THE COMMANDER OF THE FAITHFUL عليهما السلام

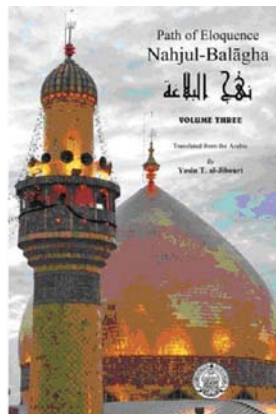
Translated from the Arabic

By

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The text below is excerpted from pages 205 – 213 of Volume 3 of my translation of Nahjul-Balagha an image of the front cover of which is here below for the kind reader. These three volumes are published by Authorhouse of Bloomington, Indiana, U.S.A., and the ISB for this third Volume is 978-1-4817-4786-8 and you can order your copy Online from Amazon: [www. Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).



SELECTED SHORT AXIOMS OF THE COMMANDER OF THE FAITHFUL ﷺ

أخوك من واساك في الشدة.

Your brother is the one who solaces you during the time of hardship.

أحسن إلى المسيء تسدّه.

Be good to the abuser and you gain the upper hand over him.

أكثر مصارع العقول تحت بروق الأطماع.

Minds are mostly subdued by the glitter of ambitions.

أدب عيالك تنفعهم.

Discipline your children, you will thus benefit them.

أدب المرء خير من ذهبه

One's good conduct is better than his gold.

بالبر يُستعبد الحر.

Through kindness are the free enslaved.

باكر بالخير تسعد.

Quickly do goodness so you may gain happiness.

بركة العمر في حسن العمل.

A lifetime's bliss is in good deeds.

بلاء الإنسان من اللسان.
One's affliction stems from his tongue.

بركة المال في أداء الزكاة.
Wealth is blessed when *zakat* is paid.

تفاعل بالخير تنله.
Augur well, you will gain goodness.

تزاحم الأيدي على الطعام بركة.
When hands crowd at food, they bless it.

تواضع المرء يكرمه.
One's humbleness honors him.

توكل على الله يكفيك.
Rely on Allāh, and He will suffice you.

ثلثة الدين موت العلماء.
Creed cracks when scholars die.

ثبات الملك بالعدل.
Justice firms governance.

ثوب السلامة لا يبلى.
Safety's outfit never wears out.

ثواب الآخرة خير من نعيم الدنيا.
The rewards of the hereafter are better than this world's felicity.

جودة الكلام في الإختصار.
Speech's goodness lies in its brevity.

جالس الفقراء تزدد شكراً.
Keep the poor company and you will be appreciated more.

جليس الخير غنيمة.
One who keeps good folks company wins goodness.

جليس السوء شيطان.

The companion of evil ones is a devil.

حسن الخلق غنيمة.

Good manners are (as good as) a gain.

حرفة المرء كنز له.

One's career is his treasure.

حلم المرء عون.

One's clemency is his helper.

حلي الرجال الأدب.

Men's embellishments are good manners.

خير الأصحاب من يسدّدك على الخير.

The best companion is the one who assists you in doing what is good.

خير النساء الودود الولود.

The best women are those who are affectionate and who give birth.

خليل المرء دليل عقله.

One's close friend indicates the extent of his reasoning.

دولة الأرذال آفة الرجال.

Lowly men's authority is (good) men's lesion.

دم على كظم الغيظ تحمد عواقبك.

Continue to suppress your anger and your outcomes will be praiseworthy.

دواء القلب الرضا بالقضاء.

Heart's medicine is accepting (every Divine) decree.

ذل المرء في الطمع و العزة في القناعة.

One humiliates himself with greed, gains dignity with contentment.

ذلاقة اللسان رأس المال.

One's articulate speech is his capital.

ذكر الموت جلاء القلب.

Remembering death cleanses the heart.

رفاهية العيش في الأمن.

Living in prosperity is living in security.

رفيق المرء دليل عقله.

One's bosom companion indicates one's rationality.

راع أباك يراعاك إبنك.

Look after your father, your son will look after you.

رب رجاء يؤدي إلى الحرمان.

Anticipation may lead to deprivation.

زينة الباطن خير من زينة الظاهر.

Inner goodness is better than outer goodness.

زيارة الضعفاء من التواضع.

Visiting the weak manifests humbleness.

زر المرء على قدر إكرامه لك.

Visit one according to the extent of his regards for you.

سادة القوم الفقهاء.

Folk's masters are the *faqih*s.

سوء الخلق وحشة لا خلاص منها.

Bad manners form loneliness from which there is no escape.

سيرة المرء تنبئ عن سريره.

One's conduct indicates his innermost.

السعيد من اتعظ بغيره.

Happy is one who derives admonishment from others.

شرط الألفة ترك الكلفة.

The condition for gaining (people's) companionship is to abandon affectation.

شفاء الجنان في قراءة القرآن.

Recitation of the Qur'an heals one's body.

شر الناس من يتقيه الناس.

The most evil of all people is the one who is avoided, on account of his evil, by all people.

صلاح الإنسان في حفظ اللسان.

One's goodness lies in safeguarding his tongue.

صل الأرحام تكثر حشمك.

If you maintain ties with your kinsfolk, the number of your supporters will increase.

صلاح الدين في الورع وفساده في الطمع.

Piety reforms creed, its damage stems from greed.

ضيء القلب من أكل الحلال.

The heart's enlightenment results from consuming what is lawful.

ضيق القلب أشد من ضيق اليد.

A strait heart is harder than a strait hand.

ضرب اللسان أشد من طعن السنان.

Tongue's strokes are harsher than lances' stabs.

طلب الأدب أولى من طلب الذهب.

Pursuit of manners is better than pursuit of gold.

طوبى لمن رزق العافية.

Congratulations to whoever is blessed with good health.

طال عمر من قصر لعبه.

One who plays less lives more.

ظلم الملوك أسهل من دلال الرعية.

Kings' oppression is easier to do than spoiling subjects.

ظماً المال أشد من ظماً الماء.

Thirsting for money is tougher than thirsting for water.

ظلامه المظلوم لا تضيق.

An oppressed man's injustice shall never be lost.

عاقبة الظلم وخيمة.

Oppression's outcome is calamitous.

عدو عاقل خير من صديق جاهل.

A rational foe is better than an ignorant friend.

علو الهمة من الإيمان.

High aspiration is a sign of deep conviction.

عبد الشهوة أذل من عبد الرق.

A slave of his (illicit) desire is more servile than a bondman.

غدرك من ذلك على الإساءة.

One who leads you to abuse betrays you.

غشك من أَرْضاك بالباطل.

One who pleases you with falsehood cheats you.

غنيمة المؤمن وجدان الحكمة.

A true believer's gain is finding wisdom.

فخر المرء بفضله أولى من فخره بأصله.

A man's pride in distinction is better than that in origin.

فاز مَنْ سَلِمَ من شر نفسه.

One who is safe from his own evil wins.

فرع الشيء يُخبر عن أصله.

A thing's branch tells of its root.

قيمة المرء ما يحسنه.

One's worth lies in what he does the best.

قول الحق من الدين.

Saying what is right is an indication of one's creed.

قسوة القلب من الشبع.

Satiation grows a harsh heart.

قلب الأحمق وراء لسانه.

A fool's heart hides behind his tongue.

كمال العلم في الحلم.

Clemency is the perfection of knowledge.

كمال الجود الإعتذار معه.

Generosity's perfection adds an apology.

كثرة الوفاق نفاق و كثرة الخلاف شقاق.

Agreeing too often is hypocrisy, disputing too much is disunity.

ليس لسلطان العلم زوال.

The power of knowledge never disappears.

لين الكلام قيد القلوب.

Leniency of speech is tied to hearts.

ليس للحسود راحة.

An envious person never finds rest.

لسان العاقل وراء قلبه.

A rational man's tongue is behind his heart.

من طلب ما لا يعنيه فاتته ما يعنيه.

One who seeks what does not concern him misses what does concern him.

من عذب لسانه كثر إخوانه.

Sweet speech wins many friends.

ما هلك امرء عرف قدر نفسه.

One who knows his worth never perishes.

من لان عوده كثرت أغصانه.

One whose stem is lean has many branches.

نار الفرقة أشد من نار الجحيم.

The fire of separation is harsher than the fire of Hell.

نور المؤمن في قيام الليل.
A believer's *noor* (celestial light) stems from standing for the night prayers.

نفاق المرء ذلة.
One's hypocrisy humiliates him.

هم السعيد آخرته و هم الشقي دنياه.
A happy person's concern is his Hereafter, that of a wretch is his (temporal) world.

هلاك المرء في العجب.
One's perdition lies in conceit.

هيهات من نصيحة العدو.
Far away is a piece of advice that comes from a foe.

وزر صدقة المنان أكثر من أجره.
The burden of a benefactor's charity weighs heavier than its reward.

ولاية الأحق سريعة الزوال.
A fool's authority swiftly vanishes.

ويل لمن ساء خلقه.
Woe unto one whose manners are bad!

لا شرف أعلى من الإسلام.
There is no honor greater than Islam.

لا مرض أضنى من قلة العقل.
There is no ailment more wearisome than little rationality.

لا مرض أضنى من قلة العقل.
There is no sickness more wearisome than little reasoning.

لا صواب مع ترك المشورة.
No right results from abandoning consultation.

يسود المرء قومه بالإحسان إليهم
One wins mastership over his people by being benevolent to them.

يوم العدل على الظالم أشدّ من يوم الجور على المظلوم.

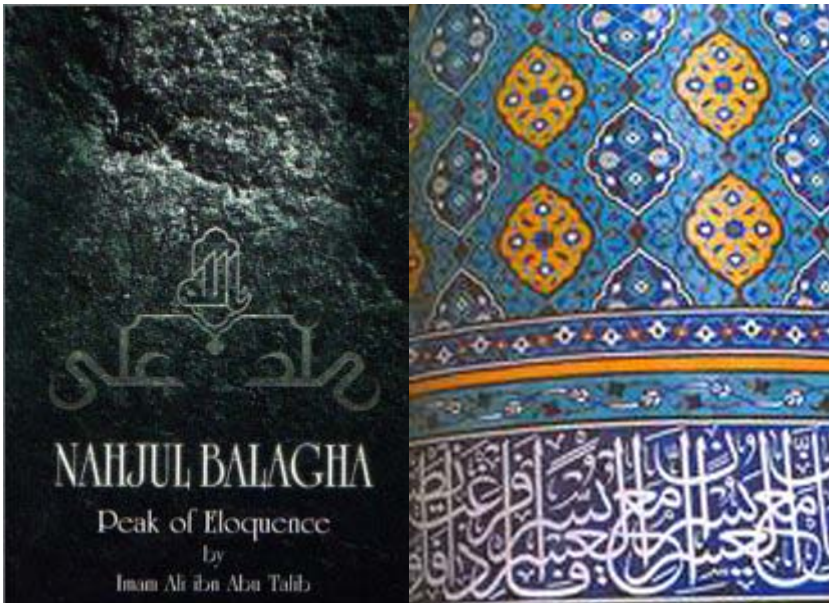
The day of justice is harder on the unjust one than the day when he oppressed.

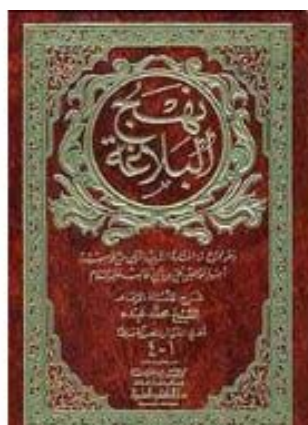
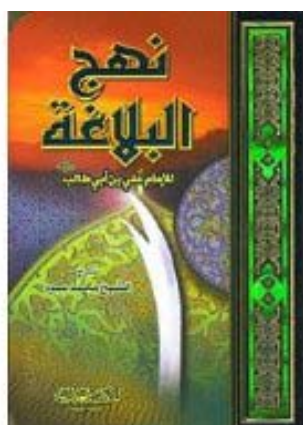
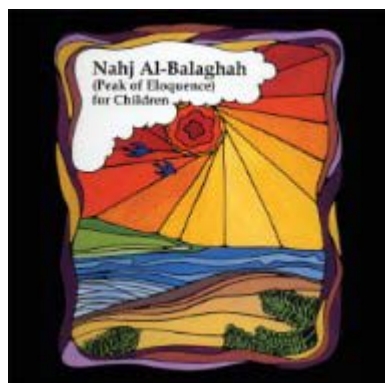
This much concludes our selection of the statements of Imām Ali ibn Abū Tālib عليه السلام. We praise Allāh, the Glorified One, Who enabled us to gather the scattered utterances from various areas and bring them together from different places, text materials that have been far from our reach. We have no ability save through Allāh. In Him do we trust, and He is Sufficient for us. He is the best Supporter.

May Allāh bless our master Muhammed ﷺ, the last of the prophets and the one who guided us towards the best path, and bless his virtuous descendants and companions who are the stars of conviction.

وَأَجْرٌ كَاعْوَابِهَا أَوْ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Below are some front covers of different editions of this great book, Nahjul-Balagha, in Arabic and English:





Path of Eloquence
Nahjul-Balāgha

نَهْجُ الْبَلَاغَةِ

VOLUME THREE

Translated from the Arabic by
Yasin T. al-Jībūrī



Clock Tower over looking the Ka' ba, Mecca, Hijaz (Saudi Arabia)



Magnificent Shrine of Imam Ali ibn Abu Talib عليه السلام, cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet of Islam ﷺ, al-Najaf, Iraq